Amendments to the Specification:

Please cancel paragraph [0005] in its entirety:

[0005]   ~~The object of the invention is solved by a method with the features of Claim 1,~~ ~~further by an inventive usage in accordance with Claim 13. The dependent claims describe~~ ~~particularly expedient embodiments of the invention.~~

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021]   In Figure 2 the actuating pressure runs first on a linear high level, that is, the retarder brakes with a correspondingly great braking torque. As soon as the operator, by means of activating a corresponding input device, has selected the function that the retarder is to be deactivated, the actuating pressure P_Y begins dropping starting with time ~~$t_{AUSSIGNAL}$~~ $t_{offsignal}$. As one can see, in the represented example the deactivation process runs in the uncritical region, that is below the warning characteristic and the immobilization characteristic arranged above it.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022]   Figure 3 shows the activation process, beginning at the time of the ~~$t_{EINSIGNAL}$~~ $t_{onsignal}$ activation signal. Here too the activation process runs in the uncritical region, that is between a predetermined first (minimum) target characteristic based on a minimum possible pressure in an air brake reservoir for the working fluid of the retarder and a second (maximum) target characteristic based on a maximum possible pressure in the air brake reservoir.